

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of processing commercial transactions through an Internet website, comprising:

providing a supplier database, the supplier database including a plurality of suppliers and describing a type of product distributed by each supplier and a service performed by each supplier;

submitting receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website, the request for goods or services including line items, each line item consisting of a manufacturer, part number, description, quantity, delivery date, geographical area preference and predefined grouping preference, the predefined grouping preference consisting of a type of supplier, preferred status, and association membership status;

inspecting the request for goods or services to determine types of goods and types of services included in the request for goods or services;

selecting potential suppliers from the supplier database for each of the types of goods and the types of services included in the request for goods or services in accordance with the geographical area preference and predefined grouping preference;

transmitting the request for goods or services to the each of the potential suppliers;

receiving communicating a return quote from the each of the potential suppliers in response to the request, each return quote including a price, availability, delivery instructions, warranty information, insurance information, handling charges, expiration date, internal reference number, tax exempt status, payment terms, comments, and special instructions; and

transmitting the return quotes through the Internet website to an originator of the request.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request is transmitted to the suppliers through electronic mail.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the return quote is transmitted to the originator through electronic mail.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the step of selecting at least one of the suppliers to supply the goods or services.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the commercial transactions are maintained on the Internet website.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the commercial transactions are available for searching and reporting.

11. (Currently amended) A method of processing commercial transactions ~~acquiring goods or services~~ through an Internet website, comprising:

providing a supplier database, the supplier database including a plurality of suppliers and describing a type of product distributed by each supplier or a service performed by each supplier;

submitting receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website directed to a group of suppliers, the request for goods or services including a part number, quantity, delivery date and a geographical area preference or a predefined grouping preference, the predefined grouping preference including a type of supplier, preferred status, or association membership status;

submitting the request for goods or services to a group of suppliers selected from the supplier database in accordance with the geographical area preference and predefined grouping preference;

receiving a return quote in response to the request; and transmitting the return quote through the Internet website to an originator of the request selecting at least one of the suppliers from which to acquire the goods or services.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the Internet website maintains a listing of suppliers.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the request is transmitted to the group of suppliers through electronic mail.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the return quote is transmitted to an originator of the request through electronic mail.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, further including the step of maintaining commercial transactions on the Internet website for searching and reporting.

18. (Currently amended) A method of supplying goods or services through an Internet website, comprising:

providing a supplier database;

receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website ~~directed to a group of suppliers;~~

selecting potential suppliers from the supplier database for each of the goods or services included in the request for goods or services;

transmitting the request for goods or services to the each of the potential suppliers; and

communicating a return quote in response to the request for goods or services to an originator of the request; and

~~being selected as a supplier to supply the goods or services.~~

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the request is transmitted to the group of suppliers by electronic mail.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the return quote is transmitted to an originator of the request by electronic mail.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18, further including the step of maintaining commercial transactions on the Internet website for searching and reporting.

23. (Currently amended) A method of supporting transactions

for goods or services through an Internet website, comprising:

providing a supplier database;

receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website;

selecting a group of suppliers from the supplier database,
the group of suppliers being capable of supplying a good or
providing a service included in the request;

communicating the request to ~~a~~the group of suppliers; and

providing for selection of at least one of the group of suppliers to supply the goods or services.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further including the step of communicating a return quote from at least one of the group of suppliers to an originator of the request.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein an originator of the request designates a geographic area to select the group of suppliers from the listing of suppliers.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the request is transmitted to the group of suppliers by electronic mail.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the return quote is transmitted to an originator of the request by electronic mail.

30. (Original) The method of claim 23, further including the step of maintaining commercial transactions on the Internet website for searching and reporting.

31. (Currently amended) A system of supporting transactions for goods or services through an Internet website, comprising:

means for providing a supplier database;

means for receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website;

means for selecting a group of suppliers from the supplier database, the group of suppliers being capable of supplying a good or providing a service included in the request;

means for communicating the request to athe group of suppliers; and

means for providing for selection of at least one of the group of suppliers to supply the goods or services.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, further including means for communicating a return quote to an originator of the request.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31, further including means for designating a geographic area from which to select the group of suppliers.

34. (Original) The system of claim 31, further including means for communicating the request to the group of suppliers through electronic mail.

35. (Original) The system of claim 31, further including means for communicating the return quote to an originator of the

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request through electronic mail.

36. (Original) The system of claim 31, further including means for maintaining commercial transactions on the Internet website for searching and reporting.